

In an interview with the Buffalo News following his appointment, Judge Scott humbly remarked of his accomplishments, "I try not to talk of it in those terms. But yes, there have been a number of firsts in my life, and yes, I'm proud of it." Judge Scott didn't like to dwell on his accomplishments; he was always looking to contribute to more than his résumé. Though he often downplayed his own role in breaking down barriers and deflected credit for helping others do the same, that only added to Judge Scott's authenticity, which was as noticeable in his courtroom as his gavel.

Outside of the courtroom, Judge Scott's presence was felt in the talks he gave to Buffalo kids who would benefit not just from his words but from the ceilings he broke through for the betterment of himself and for others. In addition to his informal community involvement, he also served as a board member on the National Conference for Community and Justice and the Buffalo Urban League. The life member of the NAACP was connected to the fight for justice in his hometown, where he met his wife Trudy and raised two sons, while also committing to the same struggle in education and the legal profession.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this time to honor the trailblazing legacy of Judge Hugh Scott. He embodied the passion, energy, and commitment to cause that makes Buffalo unique. We will forever be grateful for his outstanding service and leadership. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Trudy and his two sons and the many friends and family. I offer my thanks to Judge Scott for his incredible contributions to the fabric of our community and offer my condolences to his family for the passing of a man known to the legal system as a judge but known to people as a husband, father, trailblazer, and role model.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOBOKEN VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS

HON. ALBIO SIREs

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, our country is reeling from a pandemic that has left over half a million people dead, caused millions to lose their jobs, and forced millions more to stay home. Throughout the past year of strife, one group of people has carried the burden of the pandemic in order to protect our communities. Our nation's first responders have continued to put themselves in harm's way to care for others.

I applaud all the brave first responders in New Jersey's 8th District; our brave policemen, firefighters, and healthcare workers, but I would like to give special mention to the Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps. This all volunteer ambulance corps marks their 50th anniversary on Sunday, February 28, 2021. For 50 years the volunteers of this unit have served as a volunteer Emergency Management Services (EMS) unit and have covered most of Hoboken's calls for ambulance and EMS services.

There are 150 volunteers in this corps, with 10 ambulances and emergency vehicles field-

ing over 5,000 emergency calls each year, and over 400,000 total since their founding. Since the COVID-19 pandemic started, volunteers from the corps have been working tirelessly to continue providing emergency services and transportation to the residents of Hoboken even in the face of a severe health crisis. This exemplifies the commitment that these volunteers have to their community, striving to help others even when presented with grave challenges.

The Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps has maintained their commitment to excellence prior to COVID-19 as well. In 2012, when the deadly superstorm Sandy ravaged most of New Jersey and the Northeast, the Corps jumped into action despite sustaining damage to their headquarters and multiple vehicles. They helped evacuate patients from Hoboken University Medical Center, which was damaged by flooding, and establish a field hospital in the gym of Stevens Institute of Technology.

These are two notable examples of the heroism displayed by the Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps, but there are countless other stories outlining their positive impact on our community. As the corps celebrates 50 years of service, I commend them for the important work they do in our community. Hoboken, Hudson County, myself, and countless others across the 8th District thank them for their service and dedication, and look forward to the next 50 years of service they will provide to our grateful community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RUSSELL GRAY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a humble, loyal, and dedicated public servant, Russell Mason Gray of Sterling, Connecticut, who passed unexpectedly, at age 76, on January 12, 2021.

A resident and the First Selectman of the town of Sterling, Connecticut for 16 years, Russell prioritized the wellbeing of Sterling and its citizens above all else. Before being called to public service, Russell and his wife Sue dedicated themselves to their family dairy farm, and Russell, at his core was a farmer, with strong ties to his land. These ties created a natural transition to his election as First Selectman in 2005.

Russell's steadfast leadership helped Sterling, a small community of less than 4,000 people, navigate the challenges of being a rural municipality. From building four new bridges in town and constantly inspecting roads—to facilitating the construction of the new Sterling Community School and moving the town offices and Library to the former Sterling Memorial School in Oneco—Russell was proactive in securing an efficient but accessible municipal infrastructure for the town of Sterling. Alongside his commitment to Sterling, Russell was Chairman of the Windham County Soil and Water Conservation District, President of the Windham County Farm Bureau, Advisor to Killingly High School Vo-Ag,

Director of Patrons Mutual Insurance Company, President of the CT State Grange, County and Ekonk Community Granges, and Chairman of the Northeast Council of Governments. These commitments reflect only a portion of Russell's legacy and display not only Russell's dedication to Sterling but to all the towns in Windham County.

Russell's love for his town and the people in his community is known to all he encountered. His fellow selectman Lincoln Cooper once said, "He was stubborn and loyal—he loved this town. He was a self-made man whose stubbornness led him to make good decisions for Sterling." His former administrative assistant, Joyce Gustavson, emphasized that for Russell—"it was family first, then Sterling." Everyone who worked close with Russell saw the passion in his daily work at the town hall and his willingness to go above and beyond for every resident. Losing Russell leaves a deep void in eastern Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, knowing of Russell's devotion to the people of eastern Connecticut and Sterling and how diligently he served until his last breath, I can attest that his career represents the best of public service. I hope the chamber will join me in expressing the deepest condolences on behalf of the House of Representatives to the Gray family—his wife Sue; His children Rebecca, Mason, Deborah; and his grandchildren and great grandchildren. I hope this testament to Russell's life serves as an acknowledgement of the immeasurable debt of gratitude owed to him by the American people.

REMEMBERING ALBERT HALE

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a former colleague and friend of mine, Albert Hale, who passed away February 2, 2021 at the age of 70 following complications from COVID-19.

Many in this chamber may not know who Albert Hale was, but he helped build and advocate for the Navajo Nation throughout his time in public service. As the Nation's second president, he worked tirelessly to advocate for sovereignty of the Diné, secure their rights, and address the needs of his constituents. As one of the first lawyers from the Nation, Mr. Hale was instrumental in advocating for the rights of the Diné and getting them the resources they needed to thrive.

Albert was a great friend of mine and an even greater leader for his community. We served together in the Arizona Legislature and his work consistently inspired me. I also fondly remember the Navajo Nation's parades, where Albert would always fearlessly ride on horseback, while I and others would be nearby on foot. I want to extend my deepest condolences to Albert's wife Paula, his daughters Sherri, Sheena, and Janelle, and his son Tony. Albert will be sorely missed, but his belief in and work for a brighter future in his community will endure.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MICHAEL
HAND

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Michael Hand before the United States House of Representatives in recognition of his retirement as Assistant Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC). Mr. Hand, a Philadelphia native, has led a remarkable career defined by his ardent and diligent service to union members nationwide.

Originally from the River Ward section of Philadelphia, commonly called the Flat Iron, Mr. Hand earned his start in the labor community as member of Local Union 1050, serving on its Executive Board in numerous capacities for nearly 30 years. Prior to being appointed to his leadership role at the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, Mr. Hand served as one of the EASRCC's Senior Area Managers, expertly assisting the organization and its 40,000 members in Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, and 10 North Carolina counties.

Throughout his accomplished and lengthy career as a skilled carpenter, Mr. Hand was involved in construction projects at some of Philadelphia's most well-known institutions, including at the University of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia International Airport, Luken Steel, the Philadelphia Convention Center, and Liberty II, among others.

While Mr. Hand no longer resides in Philadelphia, he continues to selflessly give back to our community through his involvement with the "Carpenters Who Care" program, that helps carpenters struggling with addiction, and through his volunteer work with the Center of Support for Children's Advocates and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals (SPCA).

I wish Mr. Hand and his family the best in their future endeavors. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation to Michael Hand for his extraordinary contributions to our society.

HONORING SADIE DELICATH AND
HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS
TO BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, February is Black History month. This month, and every month, let us celebrate the Black Americans who built this nation, amplify the voices of those who continue to fight for a more just society, and recommit to taking real action. We must remember that Black History is American History as we reflect on the people who have strengthened our nation.

This past year, the fight for racial justice was especially important in wake of unspeakable tragedies like the murders of George

Floyd and Breonna Taylor. People of all ages protested from coast to coast, calling for justice, saying enough is enough, and demanding change. I was particularly inspired by a group of young students led by Social Studies Teacher Nicole Clark, English Language Arts Teacher Monica Powell, and Inclusion Specialist Courtney Legg at Two Rivers Public Charter School in Washington, D.C.—where my granddaughter Sadie Delicath attends. During their recent school showcase they presented their "resistance poems" which I have shared with my colleagues in an e-booklet and posted to my website at:

<https://delauro.house.gov/sites/delauro.house.gov/files/documents/TwoRiversPoems.pdf>.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." During these unprecedented times, where we are also struggling to combat a pandemic that is disproportionately affecting communities of color, we must have the courage to make meaningful change. It is clear that the young authors of these poems certainly have that courage. I was particularly inspired by their words, and I am confident that my colleagues in the Congress were as well.

It is through their dedication and commitment of young people—and that of so many others before them—we are able to continue this fight for equality, justice and opportunity today and for many years to come.

I would like to share the poem written by my granddaughter Sadie. I am inspired by her every day:

CHANGE NEEDS TO COME

(By Sadie Delicath)

Do you know what it's like to be a Black person in America?

'Cause I don't.

I don't look at the tv and see another brother, mother, daughter, or father hanging from a tree or getting shot in her sleep wondering if next time it will be me.

Do you know what it's like to be a white person in America? 'Cause I do.

When I see a cop car there are no butterflies dancing in my stomach or the sinking feeling something bad is going to happen.

Is that how everyone feels, or just me?

Do you know what it's like to be a white person in America? 'Cause I do.

Having privilege because of the color of my skin, being protected by something I'm born in.

History is a broken record, skips a couple of times, but always repeats itself.

Our laws and our norms always find a way to keep racism around.

Slavery led to Jim Crow and Jim Crow to police brutality

We have the power to put an end to this pain, but Black people are silenced as if by thunderous rain.

Denouncing racism is not enough, a black square is not enough, do you really care or is it just a bluff?

Black Lives Matter is not a trend, we have to put racism to an end.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC
BUILDINGS RENEWAL ACT OF 2021

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Public Buildings Renewal Act of 2021. This legislation will spur private investment in public building infrastructure throughout the United States by creating \$5 billion in Private Activity Bonds for the development of government-owned public buildings. Critically, this legislation intends that these bonds are compliant with Davis-Bacon labor standards.

In every American community, there are serious concerns about the condition of our schools, public hospitals, justice facilities, universities, and libraries. With state and local budgets becoming increasingly strained, officials have chosen to save money by steadily reducing capital investment in public buildings. But years of underinvestment have led to facilities that are inadequately maintained, fail to comply with current codes or disability requirements, and do not have adequate security—endangering the public. Throughout the country, the average public school building is at least 40 years old, and the current backlog of maintenance and repair projects adds up to more than \$45 billion annually in unmet funding needs. It is past time that we upgrade our public buildings to provide a safe, modern, and efficient experience from coast to coast.

Presently, the use of public-private partnerships to develop government owned public buildings is restricted because, unlike transportation projects, public buildings are not currently eligible for Private Activity Bonds. This unnecessary impediment prevents public building from combining tax-exempt financing with private, taxable financing, resulting in lower project costs for our state and local governments. The Public Buildings Renewal Act adds public buildings as a new class of projects eligible for financing with Private Activity Bonds, allowing state and local governments to invest in public building infrastructure projects more easily. Once enacted, state and local governments would be able to enter long-term contracts with a private sector company to design, build, finance, and/or operate and maintain the building for a defined period. This legislation is intended to provide an additional financing option to state and local governments looking to improve their public buildings, not be a panacea for all projects.

We can no longer accept schools and hospitals in disrepair, deferred maintenance, and delayed capital investment. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to include this legislation in an infrastructure investment package.

HONORING STEPHEN M.
CULPOVICH'S SERVICE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, today we honor Stephen M. Culpovich, who is retiring